

Editorial

As we move into the final weeks of 2016, the *WSJ* editorial collective have been reflecting on some significant moments this year. First, as many readers may know, the Women's Studies Association was recently gifted a Māori name, Pae Akoranga Wāhine. Pae can broadly be translated to mean 'platform of speakers' or 'thinker's bench or lectern'. It can also mean 'horizons'. Akoranga means 'studies' or the learning/teaching process. Wāhine, of course, stands for (all) women. The name was given to the Association by Professor Ngahuia Te Awekotuku, who also generously accepted the Association's invitation to become its first māreikura or patron. This new name, formally adopted at the annual general meeting in September, re-centres Aotearoa/New Zealand's feminism within and in relation to its bicultural foundations. The new acronym WSA/PAW will soon be integrated into all association insignia.

Second, there appears to be a new vibrancy building around visible feminist activities in academic contexts and in public spaces. In the past 13 months, five conferences with overtly feminist themes have been held around the country: *trans/forming feminisms* (Dunedin, November 2015), *Fat studies* (Palmerston North, June 2016), our own WSA/PAW conference (Auckland, September 2016), the *3rd annual FemSoc feminist conference* (Christchurch, September 2016), and the *National Council of Women of New Zealand conference* (Wellington, September 2016). We expect to be publishing content from some of these conferences in upcoming issues. In addition to this really quite extraordinary array of conferences, there have been various public panel discussions, feminist clubs, feminist films featured in festival circuits, feminist art exhibitions, and even feminist comedy shows. If these are the early signs of a gathering feminist momentum, they are indeed encouraging.

However, we now know that Helen Clark has *not* been appointed as the United Nations Secretary General and that the United States did *not* elect their first woman president. Many readers will feel disappointment at both these outcomes, and not just because of the snubbing of able female candidates. It is notable that both campaigns featured an unprecedented accent on gender issues, effectively exposing the prevailing culture of sexism and often outright misogyny that persists, even at the highest levels of political life. The US presidential campaign in particular brought into stark relief the widespread normalisation of predatory male sexual licence, and Donald Trump's presidential term is expected to be marked by retrogressive policies relating to reproductive rights. These recent events are important landmarks in our feminist landscape and remind us of the need to retain a sense of optimism about the possibilities for meaningful social change, even as we continue to encounter and challenge intractable patriarchal norms and practices.

Our second issue for 2016 reflects this renewed interest in feminist concerns and captures at least some of the diversity of feminism today. It reveals the wide range of spaces where change is occurring – the public and the everyday, just as much as the academic – and draws attention to the spaces in which new challenges are being encountered. Collectively, the papers in this issue demonstrate both current advances in feminist research and theorising within academia and the renewed feminist conversations taking place in our schools and communities, on the stage, online, and elsewhere.

Three contributions are particularly relevant for readers involved in secondary and tertiary education. We open with a special feature article by Cate Curtis as a continuation of our series on contemporary feminist thought in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Curtis reviews the extensive work undertaken by feminist scholars in the field of psychology – many of them active members of WSA/PAW. Curtis not only canvasses the significant history of feminist psychology but also points to the ongoing and emerging issues of relevance to this field, including the continued high prevalence of intimate partner violence, issues around sexual objectification that have taken a new shape with the expansion of social media, and the ambivalent role of the internet in relation to women's issues. This latter issue is also reflected in Emma Blackett's paper on the FeminEast club of young feminists at a Wellington high school. Blackett points to the significance of the internet and social media in the development of both the critical thinking of the young women involved and the formation and maintenance of the group itself. And, directly relevant for teachers of women's and gender studies, Rebecca Stringer's reflection from the field addresses the use of 'trigger warnings' in university classes. Stringer outlines the origins of this practice and its controversial reception while advocating for the use of trigger warnings to ensure equitable access to learning for all students.

Shifting focus to the field of health, Ambika Kohli's paper is based on her research in India and points to the problematic ambivalence of modernity in relation to women's reproductive agency. Kohli highlights the contradictions inherent in the multiple ways in which women 'bargain with patriarchy' in order to exercise choice and agency in their reproductive decision making. We also feature a research report by Jenny Rankine presenting key findings from a study of service providers who work with women affected by alcohol. Her research presents a grim picture of the causes of the vicious spiral that impels women into easy addictions and highlights the perspectives of service providers, too many of whom experience fatigue and burn-out as they struggle with the interminable structural factors that enable addictions among marginalised groups.

Reflecting the recent flurry of feminist activities within the wider public domain, we include reviews of three recent events that we believe will be particularly interesting to our readers. These include Anna McMartin's discussion of a breakfast and talk on suffragettes and future feminists held on Suffrage Day at Te Papa in Wellington; Tara Pond's reflections on a panel discussion on mana wāhine theory, sex, and activism as part of the LATE at the Museum series in Auckland; and Johanna Schmidt's review of a talk at the Auckland Film Festival by a researcher from the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media. We hope to make such reviews of feminist events a regular feature of the journal to help convey a tangible sense of the resurgence of feminist activity today; we encourage anyone organising similar events to contact us about the possibility of having their event featured in the journal. As centennial commemorations of World War I continue, we also offer Gwen Parson's review of Carol Cohn's book, *Women and wars*.

Looking forward, the recent WSA/PAW conference was notable for its vibrant atmosphere and attendance and included presentations from a number of young feminists. We extend our congratulations to the conference organisers for an extremely successful event. In 2017, we plan to publish an extended abstracts section featuring the papers that were presented at this conference.

As always, we thank those who have contributed to this issue from behind the scenes. These include our wonderfully efficient production team (Anna Thomson, Jenny Rankine, and Ruth Renner), our book review editor Liz Rawlings, and our anonymous peer reviewers, who are only now able to see the results of their invaluable and often very generous feedback to our authors. We also extend special thanks to Tara Pond and Anna McMartin, who responded to

our invitations to review feminist events at somewhat short notice, and to the organisers of the Te Papa and Auckland Museum events for their assistance. Contributions by and about the new generation of feminists in Aotearoa/New Zealand and beyond, along with evidence of the presence and growing impact of feminist voices within the wider public domain, put us in good heart for the year ahead.

Johanna Schmidt, Carolyn Michelle, and Rachel Simon-Kumar, co-editors